AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A paper gathering and feeding method comprising:

providing a paper gathering and feeding device comprising a rotation member in the vicinity of a coupling section between a transfer section and a gathering section, and wherein said rotation member is provided with a changeable piece having a material such that a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis is changeable by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation member;

performing a gathering process for dropping paper to be transferred in the transfer section to gather the same in the gathering section, and

performing a feeding process for feeding the paper gathered in the gathering section to the transfer section, wherein

at the time of the gathering process, the rotation member rotates in a gathering direction to slap down the paper using the changeable piece with a wider radius distance than a radius of the piece when it is at rest, and

at the time of the feeding process, the rotation member rotates in a feeding direction to allow the paper to be fed.

2. (Currently Amended) A paper gathering and feeding device comprising:

a rotation member which is provided with a changeable piece having a material such that a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis is changeable by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation member, and is positioned in the vicinity of a coupling section between a transfer section and a gathering section, ~~and wherein~~

wherein the rotation member ~~being~~ is constructed as to rotate in a gathering direction to slap down the paper using the changeable piece with a wider radius distance than a radius of the piece when it is at rest, and constructed as to perform a feeding allowance operation to rotate in a feeding direction to allow the paper to be fed.

3. (Previously Presented) The paper gathering and feeding device according to claim 2, wherein the changeable piece is formed in a curve shape, curving in a rotation backward direction at the time of the slapping-down operation by an intermediate section between the tip section and a base section on a side of the rotation axis.

4. (Previously Presented) A rotation member for a paper gathering and feeding device, said rotation member comprising: a changeable piece having a material such that a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis is changeable by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation member, said changeable piece being rotatable in a gathering and a feeding direction.

5. (Original) The rotation member of claim 4, wherein said changeable piece is a centrifugal impeller.

6. (Original) The rotation member of claim 5, wherein said centrifugal impeller comprises flexible blades that are retracted when the impeller is stationary and spread out upon rotation of the impeller.

7. (Original) The rotation member of claim 6, wherein said flexible blades are formed from a rubber material.

8. (Currently Amended) The rotation member of claim 4,

wherein said changeable piece comprises a curved flexible blade; and

wherein the radius distance of said changeable piece is wider when being rotated in the gathering direction than in the feeding direction.

9. (New) The rotation member of claim 4, wherein said changeable piece comprises a tube body and at least one flexible blade extending from the tube body.

10. (New) The rotation member of claim 9, wherein said flexible blade is integrally formed.

11. (New) The rotation member of claim 9, wherein said flexible blade has a curved shape.

12. (New) The rotation member of claim 11, wherein the flexible blade is biased in a forward direction when the rotation member rotates in a gathering direction.

13. (New) The rotation member of claim 11, wherein the flexible blade is biased in a reverse direction when the rotation member rotates in a feeding direction.

14. (New) The rotation member of claim 11, wherein said flexible blade has a base section joined to the tube body, said base section has a smaller radius than the rest of the blade.

15. (New) The rotation member of claim 9, wherein the blade has an increased thickness toward a tip section.

16. (New) The rotation member of claim 9, wherein the blade is inverse-tapered and gradually increases in thickness from a base section toward a tip section.

17. (New) The rotation member of claim 9, wherein a plurality of blades are provided and joined to the tube body in even intervals, said blades wrapping around the tube body and contacting an adjacent blade when the rotation member is in a non-rotation state.

18. (New) The rotation member of claim 4, wherein said changeable piece rotates in a gathering direction to gather paper and rotates in a feeding direction to feed paper.

19. (New) A paper gathering and feeding device comprising a rotation member according to claim 4.